

ALTON OCHSNER MEDICAL FOUNDATION

3503 PRYTANIA STREET

NEW ORLEANS

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Department of Genetics
Madison 6, Wisconsin

October 19, 1954

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of October 2, which I found waiting for me on my return from a short vacation trip.

I appreciate very much your interest in the congenital subluxation problem in German Shepherds and I am delighted to know that you will give this matter further attention in the near future. In the meantime, I will collect pedigrees of afflicted dogs.

Your remarks on "narrowminded breeders" who aim for "superior" types, conforming to "artificial and unrealistic standards of the show ring" are well taken and I am, at times, unable to understand the reasons for the so called standards in certain breeds. In the case of the German Shepherd, however, I think the situation is somewhat different. The standard has been written with only one aim in mind (so one assures me) namely that of "ability to perform work". In judging, therefore, the winning dogs are those who are not only of a suitable physical build, but who have ability to move like "a well oiled machine" with a far reaching effortless gait, indicating their ability to cover lots of ~~ground~~ ground, seemingly without effort and without getting tired easily. Serious breeders aim in this direction, and it is, therefore, so much more disappointing when congenitally subluxed puppies are born, despite efforts to obtain animals with good working ability.

I am looking forward with great interest to hear from you after you had a chance to look a little more into this situation and I want to assure you again that I will be very grateful for whatever suggestions you like to make.

Sincerely yours,

Otto Schales

Otto Schales, D. Sc.
Director of Chemical Research